FOREST PRACTICE COMMITTEE January 21, 2015

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Board of Forestry and Fire Protection

"PROTECTION OF HABITABLE STRUCTURES EXEMPTION, 2015"

Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, (14 CCR),

Division 1.5, Chapter 4, Subchapter 7, Article 2

ADOPT:

Section 1038(c)(6) Protection of Habitable Structures Exemption

AMEND:

Section 1038.2(f) Exemption Form

14 CCR § 1038:

*****(c) The cutting or removal of trees in compliance with <u>PRCsections §§</u> 4290 and 4291 which eliminates the vertical continuity of vegetative fuels and the horizontal continuity of tree crowns for the purpose of reducing flammable materials and maintaining a fuelbreak to reduce fire spread, duration and intensity <u>in one of the following manners:</u>

- (i) One-Hundred and Fifty (150) Foot Exemption:
 - (A) (1) Only trees within one-hundred-fifty (150) feet from any point of an approved and legally permitted structure that complies with the California Building Code may be harvested.
 - (B) (2) The following silvicultural methods may not be used: clearcutting, seed tree removal step, shelterwood removal step.
 - (C) (3) All surface fuels created by timber operations under the exemption which

could promote the spread of wildfire, including logging slash and debris, deadwood, branches exceeding one (1) inch in diameter, and brush, shall be chipped, burned, or removed within forty-five (45) days from the state of timber operations.

- (D) (4) In addition to the slash treatment described in [14] 14 CCR § 1038(c)(3), the areas of timber operations must meet the vegetation treatment standards in PRC § 4584(j)(1) to (2)(A) illustrated in Technical Rule Addendum No.4 within one year from the receipt of issuance of Notice of Acceptance.
- (E) (5) In addition to the limitations listed in 14 CCR § 1038(b)(1)-(10), the following apply:
 - 1. (A) The timber operator shall provide the Director the tentative commencement date of timber operations on the notice required in 14 CCR § 1038.2. Within a fifteen (15) day period before beginning timber operations, the timber operator shall notify CDF CAL FIRE of the actual commencement date for the start of operations. The starting date shall be directed to the designated personnel at the appropriate CDF Ranger Unit Headquarters by telephone, email, or by mail.
 - 2. (B) Timber operations conducted under this subsection shall conform to applicable city or county general plans, city or county implementing ordinances, and city or county zoning ordinances within which the exemption is located. The timber operator or timberland owner shall certify that the city or county has been contacted and the exemption conforms with all city or county regulatory requirements.
 - 3. (C) Timber operations may not be conducted without a copy of

the Director's notice of acceptance of the exemption at the operating site, except where the Director has failed to act within the 5 working-day review period.

- (ii) One-Hundred and Fifty (150) to Three-Hundred (300) Foot Exemption:
 - (A) Only trees that are located from one-hundred-fifty (150) feet up to three-hundred (300) feet from any point of an approved and legally permitted structure that complies with the California Building Code may be harvested.
 - (B) The post-harvest stocking of treated areas shall be consistent with 14 CCR § 913.2 (933.2, 953.2).
 - The quadratic mean diameter of the treated areas shall increase as a result of harvest activity.
 - The post-harvest stand shall be comprised of healthy and vigorous dominant and codominant trees that are well distributed throughout the treated area.
 - (C) Post Harvest slash treatment and stand conditions will lead to more moderate fire behavior in the professional judgment of the registered professional forester who submits the notice of exemption. (STAFF OPTIONS: Adopt only a performance standard, set a minimum treatment standard per other fuel hazard reduction projects, adopt no language and rely on statue for nonduplication. Refer to PRC § 4584(h)(6)(A)(II)(V))
 - (D) In addition to the limitations listed in 14 CCR § 1038(b)(1)-(10), the following apply:
 - The Notice of Exemption is prepared, signed, and submitted by a
 Registered Professional Forester (RPF) to CAL FIRE.
 - 2. The RPF shall provide the Director the tentative commencement date

of timber operations on the notice required in 14 CCR § 1038.2.

Within a fifteen (15) day period before beginning timber operations,
the timber operator shall notify CAL FIRE of the actual
commencement date for the start of operations. The starting date
shall be directed to the designated personnel at the appropriate Unit
Headquarters by telephone, email, or by mail.

- 3. Timber operations conducted under this subsection shall conform to applicable city or county general plans, city or county implementing ordinances, and city or county zoning ordinances within which the exemption is located. The RPF or timberland owner shall certify that the city or county has been contacted and the exemption conforms with all city or county regulatory requirements.
- Timber operations may not be conducted without a copy of the
 Director's notice of acceptance of the exemption at the operating site,
 except where the Director has failed to act within the 5 working-day
 review period.
- (E) For this purpose of 14 CCR § 1038(c)(2), "habitable structure" means a building that contains one or more dwelling units or that can be occupied for residential use. Buildings occupied for residential use include single family homes, multi-dwelling structure, mobile and manufactured homes, and condominiums. A habitable structure does not include commercial, industrial, or incidental buildings such as detached garages, barns, outdoor sanitation facilities, and sheds.
- (F) CAL FIRE shall evaluate the effects of the exemption allowed under 14 CCR § 1038(c)(ii) and report any findings and recommendations to the legislature

prior January 1, 2019.(Staff Note: Possible for Board to identify which aspects of exemption process that CAL FIRE shall evaluate and report upon. Also, the date is important to allow for legislative extension of the Exemption if the process if found to meet the intention of the legislature.)

(G) The exemption allowed for pursuant to 14 CCR § 1038(c)(ii) shall sunset on January 1, 2019.

§ 1038.2

*****(f) In addition to (a) through (c) above, the following shall be included for exemptions conducted under 14 CCR § 1038(i), and (j) and (c)(ii):*****

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